GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:344
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2010
FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS AUTHORITY
Bavalia Shri Kuvarjibhai Mohanbhai

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006;

(b) if so, the works carried out and the achievements made by FSSAI so far;

(c) whether representatives of several major food industries have been nominated in the FSSAI;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether this is likely to impact the interests of the consumers adversely;

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(g) the manner in which the conflict of interest will be managed and the consumers interests are likely to be protected by the FSSAI?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a)to(g): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 344 FOR 3RD DECEMBER,2010

(a) & (b) : The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has been established by a notification dated 5.9.2008 under the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (FSS Act) with a view to achieving the mandate of the Act. As per the provisions of the said Act, the work relating to the administration of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, the Fruit Products Order, the Meat Food Products Order, the Milk and Milk Products Order, etc. has been transferred to FSSAI.

The following work has so far been done by FSSAI:

Constitution of the Central Advisory Committee, 8 Scientific Panels and the Scientific Committee in terms of Section 11,13 and 14 of the FSS Act
Preparation of draft Rules and Regulations under the provisions of the FSS Act.
Appointment of Authorised Officers for 5 major sea ports viz. Kolkata, Haldia, JNPT, Mumbai and Chennai to assist the customs authorities in clearance of imported food materials.
Consultations and review meetings with all Food Commissioners of States / UTs and other stakeholders in Regional Conferences.
Training programme for the trainers of Food Safety Officers of all States/UTs during June-July, 2010 and training of Designated Officers during September, 2010.
Orientation Programme for Food Safety Commissioners.
Conduct of examination for Public Analysts.
Gap analysis study in respect of 50 food laboratories in different States/UTs with a view to upgrading them.
Development of a draft code of self-regulation for advertisement after consulting the stakeholders.
Entrusting the work to various agencies to prepare syllabi for training of Food Business Operators and Food handlers, and the Pilot project to prepare food safely plan for panchayats and municipalities.
Development of a blue print for Food Safety management system.
Drafting of schemes for Centres of Excellence and Research and Development.
Study on consumption of processed food and its impact on the human health.

(c) to (g) : FSSAI has appointed independent scientific experts as members of its Scientific Committee / Panels. In the eight Scientific Panels and the Scientific Committee constituted by the Authority, at present there are 27 scientists from the private sector,out of a total of 123 scientists (21%). These scientists have been . selected as members in their individual capacity as experts in their respective fields irrespective of their present association or affiliation with any public or private sector organisation with a view to bringing together the best scientific expertise available in the country for forming scientific opinions. This is in accordance with the international practice followed in respect of Committees requiring high level expertise on any specific subject. An elaborate procedure

has been laid down to manage conflict of interest. The members of the Scientific Committee and Panels are required to submit an annual declaration of interest and declaration of any possible conflict of interest before each meeting of the Scientific Committee and panels. Whenever a conflict of interest is established, Chairman of the Committee/panel is required to exclude such a scientist from consideration of items in the agenda.